WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for capturing information for activity in a database, the database including one or more sessions that may or may not be active over a period of time, the method comprising:

determining a plurality of times to sample the database;

at each of the each plurality of times, performing the steps of:

determining one or more active sessions from the one or more sessions included in the database that are active at the time;

capturing information for each of the one or more active sessions; and

storing the captured information for each of the active sessions.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein capturing information comprises capturing the information using an internal process in the database.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein at different times in the plurality of times, the determined one or more active sessions include different sessions.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein at least a part of the stored capturing information for a session provides a session history.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein capturing information for each of the one or more active sessions is performed without using SQL.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

filtering the captured information based on which information is desired; and

archiving the captured information for a session if it is desired.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein filtering the captured information comprises filtering the captured information based on a time the captured information was captured.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the captured information includes at least one of a username, a request syntax, and information on what activity the session is performing at the time.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein storing the captured information comprises storing the information storing the information in at least one of temporary storage and archival storage.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a view from the captured information, the viewing indicating database activity.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining captured information that includes a session that has incomplete information;

determining when the incomplete information is received; and

adding the received information to a sample for the session.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of times includes times in a periodic interval.

13. An apparatus for sampling database activity, the database including one or more sessions that may or may not be active over a period of time, the method comprising:

a session activity determiner configured to determine one or more active sessions of one or more sessions in the database at certain times over a time interval, wherein the one or more sessions may or may not be active over a period of time; and

an activity sampler configured to capture samples of activity for active sessions at the certain times, wherein the samples are captured by recording a sequence of snapshots of information for one or more active sessions over time.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the activity sampler is located in the database.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a storage device configured to store the captured samples of activity.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the storage device comprises a temporary storage.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising archival storage configured to store information that is older than information stored in temporary storage.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a view creator configured to create a view of database activity from the information stored in the storage device.

19. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a filter configured to filter the captured samples to determine which information in the captured sampled should be stored.

20. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a process configured to determine if a session includes incomplete information and to add the information to a sample for the session when it is captured.

21. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the activity sampler is configured to capture the samples of activity without using a query language.

22. A method for capturing session activity in a database, the database including one or more sessions that may or may not be active over a period of time, the method comprising:

determining one or more active sessions from the one or more sessions in the database at certain times over a time interval; and

capturing samples of activity for active sessions at the certain times, wherein the samples are captured by recording a sequence of snapshots of information for one or more active sessions over time.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising storing the samples of activity.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein storing the samples comprises storing the samples in at least one of temporary storage and archival storage.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein information in temporary storage has been captured more recently than information in the archival storage.

26. The method of claim 23, further comprising filtering information in the temporary storage to determine if the information should be stored in the archival storage.

27. The method of claim 23, further comprising creating a view from the stored information indicating database activity over a period of time.

28. The method of claim 22, further comprising:

determining captured information that includes a session that has incomplete information;

determining when the incomplete information is received; and

adding the received information to the session.

29. The method of claim 22, wherein capturing samples of activity is performed without using SQL.

30. The method of claim 22, wherein capturing samples of activity comprises capturing the samples of activity using an internal process in the database.

31. A computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium for capturing information for activity in a database, the database including one or more sessions that may or may not be active over a period of time, the computer program product comprising:

code for determining a plurality of times to sample the database;

at each of the each plurality of times, performing the steps of:

code for determining one or more active sessions from the one or more sessions included in the database that are active at the time;

code for capturing information for each of the one or more active sessions; and

code for storing the captured information for each of the active sessions.

32. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein code for capturing information comprises code for capturing the information using an internal process in the database.

33. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein at different times in the plurality of times, the determined one or more active sessions include different sessions.

34. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein code for capturing information for each of the one or more active sessions is performed without using SQL.

35. The computer program product of claim 31, further comprising:

code for determining captured information that includes a session that has incomplete information;

code for determining when the incomplete information is received; and

code for adding the received information to a sample for the session.

36. A computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium for capturing session activity in a database, the database including one or more sessions that may or may not be active over a period of time, the computer program product comprising:

code for determining one or more active sessions from the one or more sessions in the database at certain times over a time interval; and

code for capturing samples of activity for active sessions at the certain times, wherein the samples are captured by recording a sequence of snapshots of information for one or more active sessions over time.

37. The computer program product of claim 36, further comprising:

code for determining captured information that includes a session that has incomplete information;

code for determining when the incomplete information is received; and

code for adding the received information to the session.

38. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein code for capturing samples of activity is performed without using SQL.

39. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein code for capturing samples of activity comprises code for capturing the samples of activity using an internal process in the database.